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QUOTATIONS for 1912-13-14

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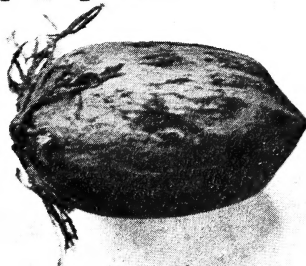
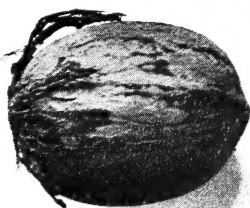
*West Texas*



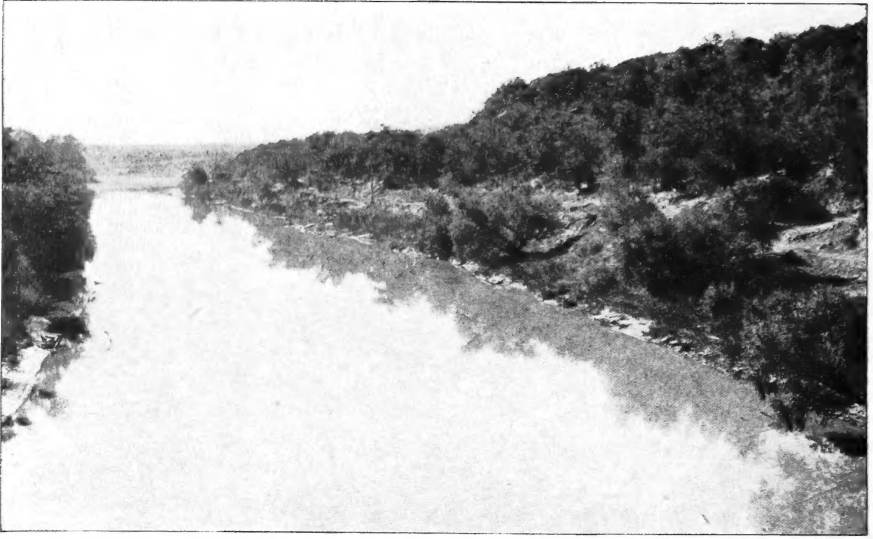
*Pecan Nursery*



Located in the Very Heart of the  
Pecan Growing Region



E. E. RISIEN & SON, Props.  
SAN SABA COUNTY, TEXAS.



Colorado River near junction with San Saba River

## Our Location



N almost any map of Texas can be seen the exact spot of our Nurseries, in the immediate vicinity of the confluence of the Colorado and San Saba Rivers. Here the soil and climate are so very favorable for developing this industry that we have no need of artificial fertilizers of any kind, as can be seen by the health and vigor of our trees. Trees grown by the use of artificial fertilizers are generally **dear at any price**, and those unfamiliar with this business should go slowly about planting the coast-raised varieties on inland places; most of them are too tender to stand this climate. With many, the fruit is too variable for profit. In this windy country tougher wood is also needed.

The hardiness of our western trees is a very important factor; the keeping qualities of our western nuts, with plump, full kernels, is proverbial, and we know nothing about an "earthy," or bitter taste.

The root-system of the Pecan being so unlike that of other nursery stock, we have practised an entirely different method of growing them, and we like them to come into competition with trees bought from elsewhere. If the price is not quite so low, time soon proves which is the cheaper. Our trees live, they fruit, they are **model trees for transplanting**, and we will venture the assertion that they can't be beat anywhere.

Our attention has been called to trees **sold for full stock**, budded 2, 3 and more feet above the ground, with but a few inches of bud-wood proper. We would like to assure prospective buyers that no such work as this is sent out from our Nurseries. Life is too short to squander in nursing sickly trees, or planting worthless varieties.

When Prof. Wm. A. Taylor, of the U. S. Pomological Department at Washington, visited our Nurseries, about the first thing he commented on was the sturdy growth of our trees. Really, our grounds are an experiment station from which the purchaser gets the full benefit. Little satisfaction **or profit** is found in growing nuts on trees that set their fruit sparingly and only on the ends of long, bare limbs, clinching the fruit so tightly that the nut itself has to be pulled off by hand or hit, falling with the hull still intact. We have this sort growing finely, and could make a great display **on paper**, and if used for exhibition purposes we would doubtless get a premium. The contrast of this is found in the varieties we offer, setting their fruit more in the body of the tree. If the trees are not too large, we go up into them, using only an old broom handle to jar the limbs, which results in a perfect rain of nuts. Those intending to buy trees should first make us a visit, to see whether or not our trees merit the **intrinsic value** claimed.

Sending money out of Texas for Pecan trees is about in keeping with sending it out for cotton, corn, peaches, melons, or anything else already growing here to perfection. Bear also in mind the express charges before the trees reach Texas soil.

MAR 16 1913

# WEST TEXAS PECAN NURSERY

E. E. RISIEN & SON, Proprietors

Established 1888

POST OFFICE, SAN SABA

San Saba County, Texas



The San Saba River

## Varieties and Prices of Our Hardy Western Trees

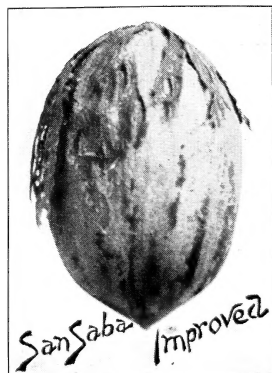


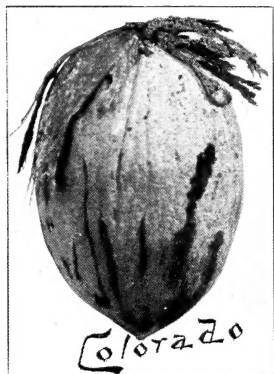
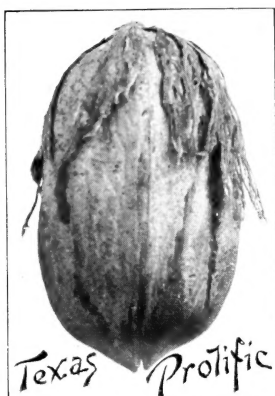
WE have growing and fruiting all the leading varieties advertised, but we have also had some costly experience. None of the eastern trees can show the symmetrical growth, elegance of foliage, brightness of color, nor quality in the nuts, and this is why we are able to eliminate all but the varieties of Pecans here listed. For the present, however, we can only do a select retail business, because the limited supply of the material we use will not yet admit of making quotations on large quantities, or growing trees for the trade. Should we have older trees than are here mentioned, the price is the same. We do not offer seedling trees.

### SAN SABA IMPROVED.

A seedling of San Saba. This tree came in as a surprise, for we had about given up all hope of getting a better nut than the original; but, after discarding thousands, our patience has been rewarded. The tree bears two weeks earlier, and commences the middle of September. The nuts, a third larger than the original variety, are much brighter in color, and the tree is a stronger grower. The nuts weigh 60 to the pound. Offered for the first time this year. Two- and three-year-old trees, \$1.25 each.

**TEXAS PROLIFIC.** See colored plate. A seedling of San Saba; season of ripening medium. Trees of this variety are so precocious as to begin bearing the second





## VARIETIES AND PRICES, continued

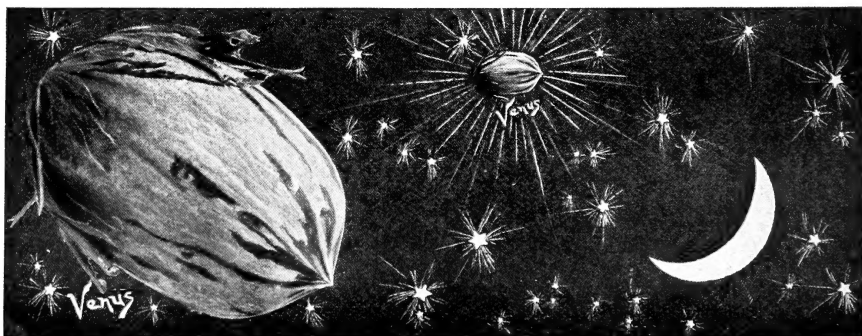
year from the bud. In this we have gained a third on every point, except reducing the thickness of shell, a feature that could hardly be possible. The nuts are large, shapely, and of a beautiful color; the kind that is attractive. They fill up the barrel fast, and stand on their own merits. Texas Prolific is the most difficult of all varieties to propagate, and this is why we doubt the ability of other nurseries to cut the price of the genuine stock. When we first introduced this variety, we failed to supply the demand at \$2.50 each. Now we offer it in two- and three-year-old trees at \$1.50 each.

**COLORADO.** A seedling of San Saba; season of ripening late and, being the latest of all to bloom in the spring, the late frosts never catch it. The tree is a remarkably healthy grower and the last to drop its foliage in the fall. It is well suited for avenue planting, but is not so prolific as the former kinds, although the nuts are somewhat larger. Selected nuts weigh 40 to the pound. Two- and three-year-old trees, \$1.25 each.

These three splendid annual-bearing Pecans make a collection that blends, and it should not be broken. Do not plant less than six trees, two of each kind, commencing with Colorado on the south, then alternately.

Because these three **Paper-shell** varieties of unsurpassed quality originated here in the immediate junction of the San Saba and Colorado Rivers, we think the names given them most appropriate—the smaller variety for the smaller river, the larger one for the larger river. Texas Prolific is just what its name implies. Having all three of the **mother trees from which to get fruit-bearing scions**, we are able to show visitors budded trees in the nursery rows, some of them fruiting not over one foot from the ground.

**VENUS.** As Venus is the brightest star in the firmament, so this nut is the brightest star in the realm of Pecans. The color is distinct; no painter could improve on it, nor sculptor its form. The most exacting epicure will say the flavor cannot be beat, and its cracking qualities are superb. It is a true paper-shell, and so large that 45 nuts weigh a pound. We must admit, however, that the season of ripening, November 1, is later than we like, but it is well worth waiting for. Venus is **not an accidental find**, but a variety of our own blending and breeding, the outcome of having a particularly **high ideal in view**. Offered this year for the first time, in two- and three-year-old trees only, at \$3 each, and we shall not be able to furnish many at this price. To intersperse some of this variety with the three already listed, will be a great acquisition either for home use or for commercial planting. Note the time of ripening and for harvesting the nuts—it is quite an item toward solving the labor problem and waste.



### Scions and Buds

Experience has proved that it does not pay to stop work in the short season we have here to hunt for suitable buds or scions, which also means a considerable waste of wood and sacrifice of the best nuts.

### Seed Pecans

These are not for sale at any price; the time, care and attention necessary to hybridize seed Pecans, such as we use ourselves, places them beyond a market value; in fact, it would be impossible to sell them and build up our industry.

### Samples and Mail Orders

Until we are better able to solve the labor problem, we are **compelled** to drop this part of the work.



Texas Prolific growing on the grounds of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, Texas, fruiting 14 nuts in less than 3 feet from the ground.

### Pecans for Eating

Although we have standing orders for about all of our crop, the supply and demand do not always come out even, so we quote the price of what we are best supplied with to fill private orders. The original San Saba nut, a genuine paper-shell, gives the highest percentage of meat to the shell of any variety yet known; quality best. From a Georgia catalogue we quote these words: "There may be a better Pecan than San Saba, but it has not yet been found." The late Hon. John Hay, Secretary of State, bought a barrel of these every year up to the time of his death. The shells of these nuts are too thin to ship in sacks without being damaged, so we use boxes and barrels. One bushel of these nuts usually weighs 32 pounds. The average Pecan weighs 44 pounds to the bushel. Price per pound, 35 cents, but we would rather not fill an order for less than one bushel.

As to the other nuts herein mentioned, we would explain that, owing to the severe cutting of fruit-bearing wood for supplying our nursery stock, the few nuts that are left to mature are needed to continue our experimental work.

### "Permanent Success Comes When the Goods and the Advertising Correspond"

The illustration on page 4 shows the kind of trees we are sending out. **Every one is a tree.** The tops are hanging down so that the roots can be more plainly seen. To say that no pruning is needed, or has been needed, or will be needed, is greatly at variance with many writers on this subject; but all can understand and remember it applies only to trees bought from the West Texas Pecan Nurseries.

The production of first-class trees is like the production of first-class anything else; some are more trouble; some are more expensive.



### Season for Planting

We like to wait until the turn of the year, but not later than March 20, before transplanting; the hard freezing we usually get about that time is apt to prove damaging to newly planted trees, before they are able to draw enough moisture from the soil in their new locations. Large concerns, of course, could not advocate this and handle their business. With others, competition is too sharp. And some don't even wait until the leaves drop off naturally, fearing the loss of a sale; but we are not yet in this attitude.

### Care of Trees on Arrival

Should it happen that conditions are not favorable to planting out as soon as your trees arrive, don't get alarmed, as they will be well packed. Examine them, and if not thoroughly damp, give them a good sprinkling before unpacking, or, what is better, bury the package at once in the ground in a shady place. Another good plan is to put them in the cellar just as received, covering with additional wrapping. Cloudy, damp days are much to be preferred for planting out.



This shows the grade of trees we send out

### Planting the Trees

Because of our improved method of growing the young trees, no root-pruning of any kind is needed, nor has it been needed, and only the tops of some may be cut back to advantage. Most failures in tree-growing are directly traceable to mistakes made when they are planted. Never expose the roots to air or sun an instant longer than is necessary, and, if possible, plant when the soil is moist and will work up fine. Never plant when the ground is soggy, as the soil will bake and retard the growth of the tree.

In digging, place the top soil on one side and the subsoil on the other. The holes should be some broader than the roots, but not much deeper than their length. Fill the hole with water and, after it has soaked away, place the tree so that it will be about the same or a little deeper than when growing in the nursery before it was moved, then rake in the top soil, but not rapidly enough for the roots to become tangled, at the same time trampling firmly with the feet till finished. Only the finest and best earth should be used first.

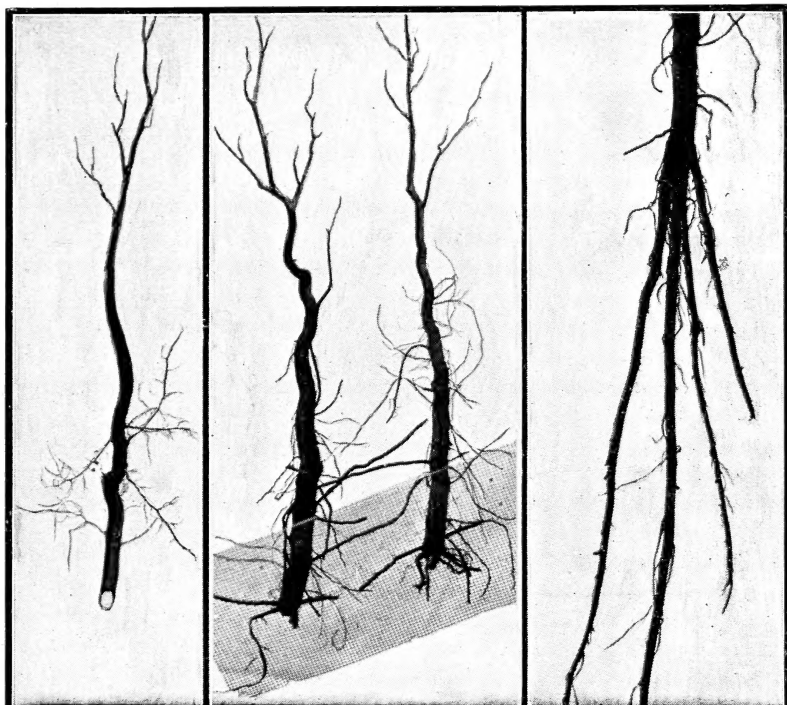
If irrigation is used, give a good soaking about ten days later, and special attention should be given to irrigation the first year. Not much growth, however, must be expected until the roots are established in the hard ground as they were before they



were moved. No vegetation of any kind should be allowed to grow within 3 or 4 feet or more of the tree, at least not until the tree has made sufficient growth to shade the ground and hold down by its own influence all undergrowth that may appear.

In western Texas we know but little about fertilizers. It is more a question of water and plenty of it, providing, of course, it is not stagnant water; hence irrigation, sub-irrigation, or land subject to overflows, produces ideal locations. In fact, if the trees are annually submerged (Baptist, not Methodist) for a few days, so much the better. To prove this statement, we have but to notice the healthy growth of trees so located. Hot heads and wet feet is the principal secret to success.

For planting distance there can be no absolute figures given. The varieties vary with the kind and fertility of the soil; but it is always safe to give plenty of room from the fact that our western trees turn their efforts more to growing fruit than wood. They can be planted as close as 35 feet apart.



1. The old way, the work of the tree-digger that leaves more roots in the ground than are taken out. With the Pecan, wounded or injured roots heal slowly, so slowly that too often they dwindle and die. We have entirely eliminated this feature.

2. As grown in the nursery before pulled up off the wire cloth. (Process invented by E. E. Risien, and patented October 20, 1903.) Every indentation made by the wire meshes produces embryo roots, the value of which cannot well be explained on paper.

3. Formation of tap-roots that at once push out from the embryo roots when removed from the wire.

BROWNWOOD, TEXAS.

Out of the 500 trees bought of you, only four died.

SAN BERNARDINO, CAL.

I saved every one of the 178 trees, and I want to compliment you on the way they were packed.

ALPINE, TEXAS.

Failing to get trees from you last year, I bought 36 from ——— Nursery. The tap-roots were all cut, I didn't save one.

BURNETT, TEXAS.

I have been offered 54 Pecan trees, of the eastern varieties, at my own price, but having bought from you before, I much preferred to pay you the full retail price.

HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS.

We regard the system of roots you sent us to be quite a discovery.



Laying wire cloth in trenches preparatory to planting the seed nuts for stocks

The Pecan may rightly be called the **one-root tree** (the lateral roots being of minor importance). There is but one **right way** to grow it in the Nursery. We have solved this problem to **perfection**. Process invented by E. E. Risien, and patented October 20, 1903.

### Shipping Facilities

As San Saba is now a railroad town on the Santa Fe system, address all communications there. No extra charge is made for packing and delivering f. o. b., after which the trees are at the risk of the purchaser.

### Terms

To unknown persons cash with order; to reliable persons, one-half with the order unless by special agreement. Owing to the nature of the trees we sell, orders for less than \$5 can hardly prove profitable.

### References

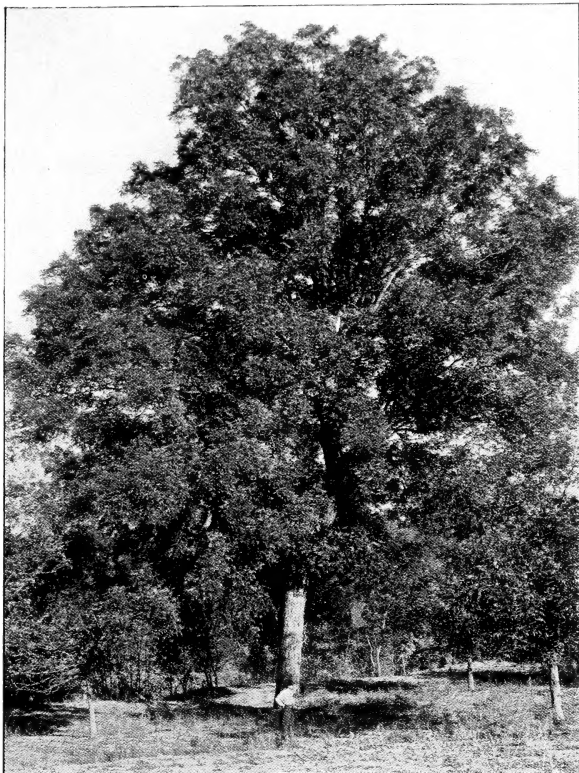
Having lived here for thirty-seven years, we are fairly well known, so can refer our patrons to any of the banks here or in the surrounding towns.



Wagon-loads of Pecans as seen on the streets of San Saba every fall. From here they are shipped in car-load lots

## Our Seedling Pecan Orchard

For the benefit of those who will still contend that a large percentage of nuts planted come true to type, we would state a few facts that anyone at any time can see for themselves. In our seedling orchard of one thousand trees, and all from the one mother tree of San Saba, which is still growing, healthy and vigorous, in the midst of them, not two of her children are alike, neither is one a counterpart of her, although all are growing approximately under the same conditions. Some of these trees show distinctively her peculiarity of foliage, but the nuts prove to be entirely different, and where we find a tree whose nuts resemble nearest the mother type, the foliage is not at all alike; then there are early- and late-bloomers. Observations of the bark show some to be thick and scaly, while others are thin and smooth. In fruiting qualities they range from almost barren to our Texas Prolific, the most precocious of any yet found. Accompanied with all these variations, there are also many objectionable features that must be weeded out, or bred out, before we have so much as one of distinctive merit; one good enough to perpetuate by budding or grafting. And this is why we say that this work calls for fine discrimination and judgment. We do not offer seedling trees for sale.



The Mother tree San Saba. The smaller ones are her children

## The Paper-Shell Pecan

The following lines, from one of our local papers, we think good enough to copy:

"In song and poetry the stately oak has been idealized as the monarch of the forest. In this country the clean, neat, and strong form of the Pecan proclaims it the aristocrat among trees. It is a little slow of growth, but never stops until it lifts its proud head above all other trees. Its symmetrical form, its graceful branches, its straight trunk, its graceful swaying, its foliage, make it a thing of beauty. As a shade tree or an ornamental tree it has few equals, and no superiors. Its long life teaches us the important lesson of preparing unspeakable pleasures for other generations.

"Its shade is not so dense as to wither out the grass, nor to breed disease. It is the cleanest tree that grows. Its stately appearance and graceful form, its long, well-formed branches, swaying like ostrich-plumes in a breeze, give it an attractiveness rarely found. Like all things designed for the beautiful, it has a useful purpose. It furnishes a fine crop of choicest nuts. It would seem far wiser to fill our yards and lawns with these trees rather than the hackberry, or short-lived trees, or grass-destroying cedar. Nut trees about a home, in addition to their beauty and utility, are wonderfully dear to the heart of the small boy. They are some of the strong links that bind the erring

hearts of youngsters to the dear old home. Ornament your home with these beautiful, useful, long-lived trees. Even if they are slow of growth, their long, useful life more than makes up the loss. A few Pecan trees around every home will give additional fame to our county as 'the home of the Paper-shell Pecan.'"

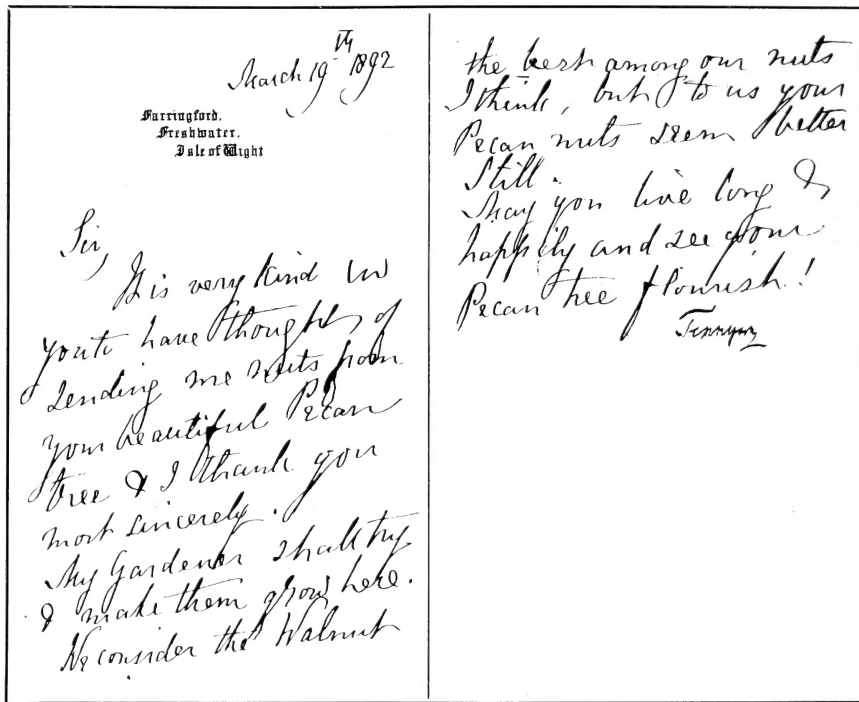
### Wanted, A Weeping Pecan

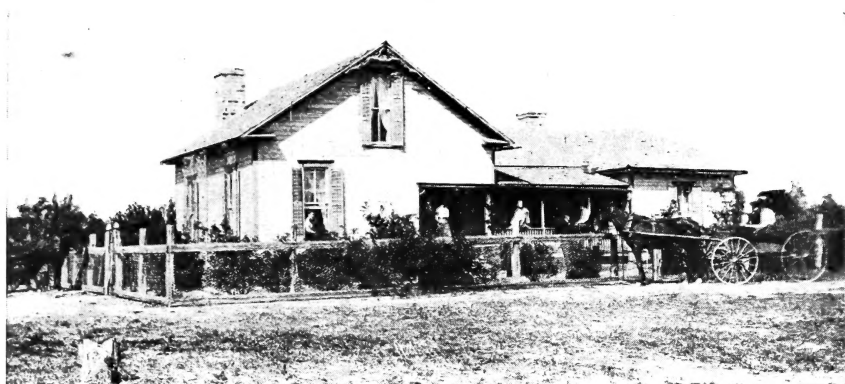
From the fact that our collection of "weeping trees" for ornamental purposes will never be complete without a weeping Pecan, we will gladly pay the introducer \$10 a foot for some cuttings.

### Answering Questions

Those unfamiliar with this business can form no idea of our mail matter, which is becoming overwhelmingly burdensome with questions that our Experimental Stations are paid to answer. Write to them, also ask for their Bulletins—that is what you are paying taxes for. We also have many letters from parties who contemplate speculating in Pecan lands. We are not in any way interested in this line, neither is our own property for sale.

**Admirers of the great English poet, Lord Tennyson, will enjoy reading this copy of an autograph letter, written, we think, with the old-time quill pen**





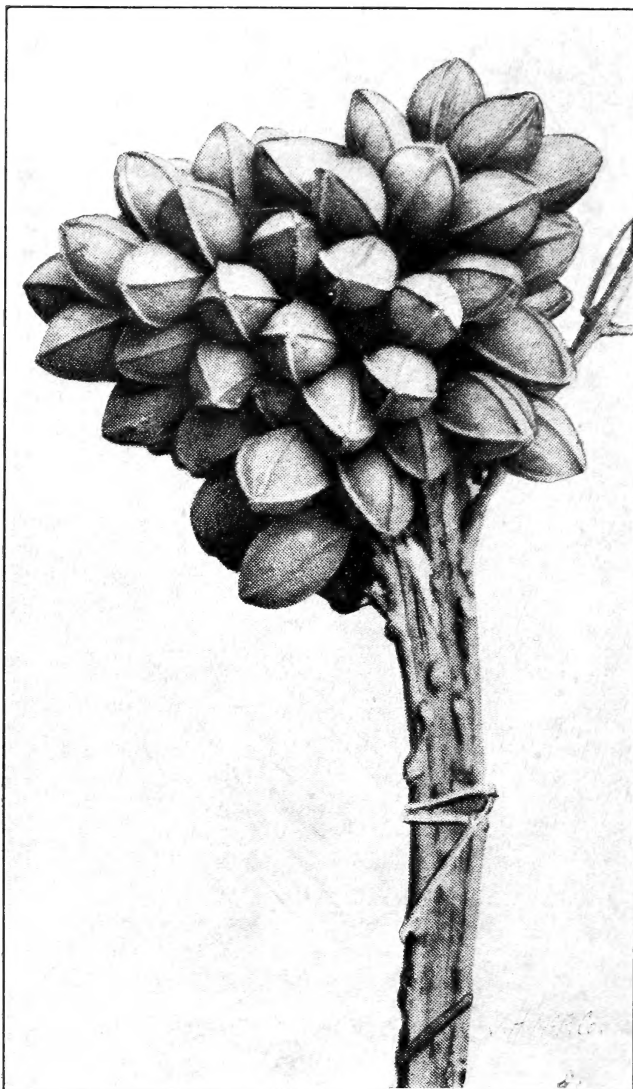
When you have finished a building or anything else of like nature, you immediately begin to see it decay on your hands. But when you have finished your plantation of trees, they are still arriving at a greater degree of perfection as long as you live.



Pecan trees growing in the valley. As they look from the hillside above



Shoal water on the San Saba River driving a water-wheel and pump (see arrow) lifting water 125 feet high to our residence above



A freak of nature, but it shows how precocious is the Texas  
~~Pecan~~ Pecan. Seventy-five nuts in this cluster

## WEST TEXAS PECAN NURSERY

E. E. RISIEN & SON, Proprietors

SAN SABA, TEXAS